

The Xanadu^{*} Hypertext System is a back-end storage facility for public-access use from personal computers and terminals. Its unusual features include very rapid feeder service, complex linkage facilities, historical backtrack and alternative versions. Extremely simple in concept, with no command language or complex filing conventions, it may be used directly for electronic publishing, electronic mail, teleconferencing, and other text-related services, as well as hypertext (non-sequential writing). Very large documents may be stored and edited conveniently. Multi-dimensional data (as for graphics) may be stored for rapid lookup, at some storage overhead for additional dimensions.

The objective has been to create a Total Literary System. Literature as we know it-- the system of interconnected documents and personal roles, like author/editor/publisher-- is debugged. The goal of Project Xanadu is mainly to electrify, speed up and enhance the benefits of this system as we already know it. For instance, any document published on our network may be quoted extensively by any other document without copyright violation, since the original author of the quotations gets the royalty when his part is read. You may link to any public document from your public or private document. Others in turn may link to you without your permission. You may even create a revised version of any public document, as you think it should have been written-- but with the original author getting the lion's share of the royalty.

In order to publish through our system, the author contractually accepts these conditions. Our contract for electronic publishing provides a standard royalty for all authors (presently set to 5¢/hour). Those insisting on higher fees may use other arrangements but lose the benefit of promiscuous linkage.

Certain link types are supported for literary use, generalizing the footnote, marginal note, quotation and alternative version. (Other link types may be micro-specified for particular needs, at the risk of difficulty for readers.) ALL LINKS ARE EXTENSIBLE TO ALL DATA TYPES.

The system does not categorize, since all categorization is biased and transient. Users and authors categorize, and are encouraged to publish their own directories of the system. The linkage facilities allow users readily to produce new indexes or clarifying writeups to what is already stored. Thus each generation sees the past anew.

Since the anticipated network will be built up of licensed stands spread throughout the country, business opportunities may arise for those wishing to open stands. (Note that this conjectural statement is not an offer of any kind; such offerings will be made, if at all, explicitly at a later time.)

In addition, software vendors will be encouraged to furnish front-end programs for use with the Xanadu system. Xanadu trademarks will be made available to vendors of approved programs, but obviously user activity at front-end consoles can hardly be restricted.

Public service is slated to begin sometime in 1980, with a target price of about \$2/hr (plus communication costs) and disk storage at about 1¢/kday. Block-booking will be available somewhat earlier, at a considerably higher rate, for those needing this system urgently.

Please note. Our systems software will not be made generally available. The complete Xanadu Hypertext System will be offered as a service only.

Next year in Xanadu.^{*}

^{*} Note: "Xanadu" is a trade and service mark for information products and services offered by Ted Nelson, as are "Lightning Literature," "The Wings of Mind," "Next Year in Xanadu," and the Eternal Flaming X.

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XANADU™ COUPON.

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I am interested in the Xanadutm Hypertext System, in particular:

- ☐ Word Processing
- ☐ Full-text retrieval
- ☐ Hypertext
- ☐ Linkages
- ☐ Historical Backtrack
- ☐ Alternative Versions
- ☐ Graphics (please describe) _____
- ☐ Multidimensional data (how many?) _____
- ☐ Electronic Mail
- ☐ Teleconferencing
- ☐ On-Line Publishing
- ☐ Paper Publishing (editorial functions and layout)
- ☐ In-house document dissemination
- ☐ "Document Build": Assembly, Updating & Boilerplate
- ☐ Linked-text data bases
- ☐ New literary and educational forms
- ☐ "Intellect Augmentation"
- ☐ Complex Annotation and Indexing
- ☐ Research and Scholarship
- ☐ Multi-version document handling
- ☐ Indexing of specific text materials from many viewpoints
- ☐ Other:

- ☐ Please send me the manual for the Xanadutm Hypertext System as soon as it is ready. I agree to pay its list price (under \$10) plus postage and handling. (Signed:) _____
- ☐ Please let me know when the system is actually running on a public-access basis.
- ☐ I am interested in block-booking time on the Early System; please contact me soon.
- ☐ Please keep me informed about business opportunities related to the Xanadutm Hypertext System. I am interested in
 - ☐ Vending front-end programs or consoles
 - ☐ Operating a Xanadu Hypertext Stand.